TORCH SONG ECOLOGY

SONG # 4

Translator
Hats

proofreader
Megan

cleaner
Kelpie

typesetter
Stiletto

Quality Check
Hats

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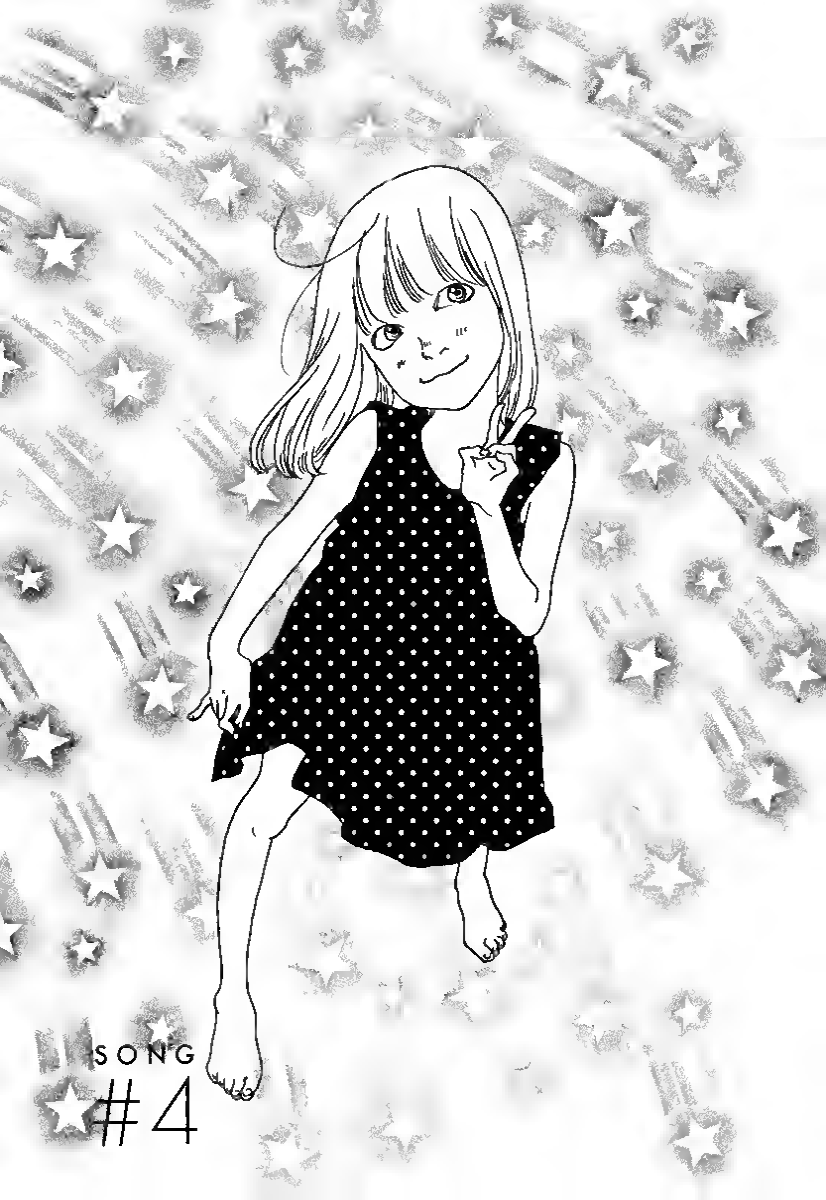
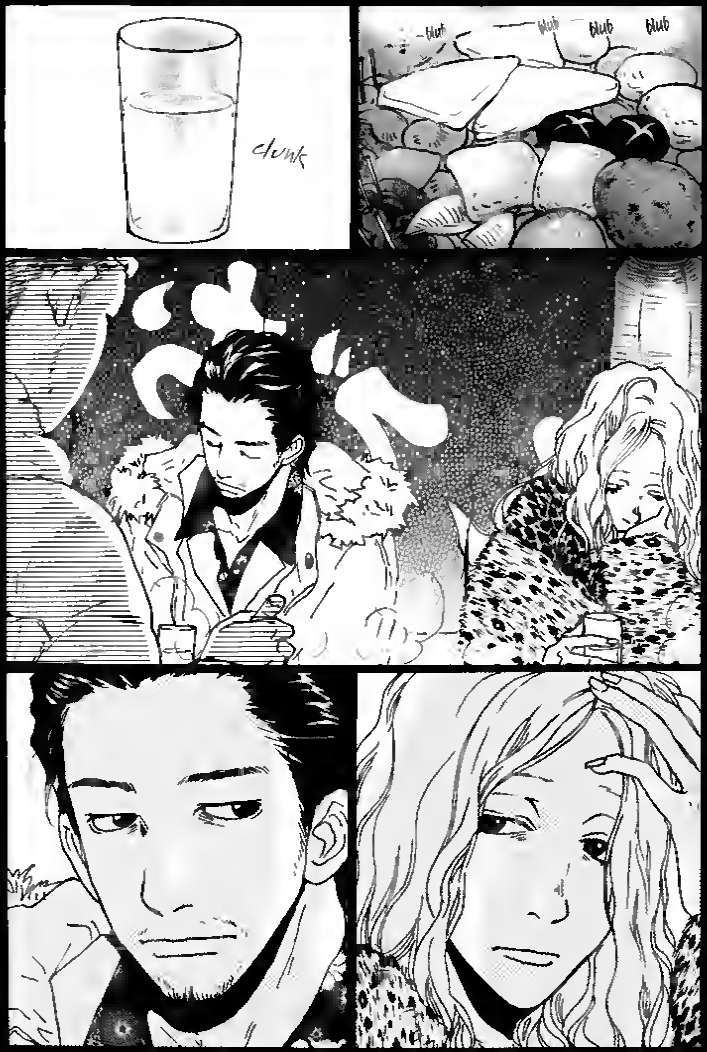


SONG
#4


clunk
blub
blub
blub
blub

Good evening.
I'm just a no-name thug.
This woman?
Tonight, we happened to sit together at this food stall.
A poor woman down on her luck.
Now she'll be fooled by these gentle eyes,
Pitiful creature.
and get sucked dry down to the bone.

Even though she knows what's in store she can't stay away.
I'll give this dumb woman so much loving,
she'll have more than enough to reflect on when it's over.
This is the kind of
*T/N: traditional-style Japanese popular ballad
enka* karaoke video that this studio is trying to produce
Hahaha
UH, HEY.
YES?
CAN YOU...
GO FOR A MORE NIHILISTIC FEEL?
NIHILIS-TIC.
NIHILIS-TIC.
Nihil?

Wikipedia!!
I totally absolutely get what he's saying.
But a small part of me do...sn't.
Caw!
Caw!
Caw!
CAW
WON'T MAKE IT...
sway
HOME
sway
SO SLEEPY...
CAW
CAW
MAN...
CAW

TALKING IN THEIR SLEEP?
PFFT!
WHAT IF THEY'RE
I HEAR THEM CROWING AT 2 AM...
THESE GUYS I BET THEY'RE UP EVEN AT NIGHT
What?
What?
KTU-NK
rustle
rustle
SPLUNK

HAVE YOU GOTTEN OVER YOUR COLD? IT'S STARTING TO GET CHILLY OUT, SO TAKE CARE

YOUR LETTER SURPRISED ME. OUR GUITARIST ACCIDENTALLY READ IT.

OUR GUITARIST IS A 32 YEAR OLD DIVORCEE. HE CLAIMS TO BE MIXED, BUT WHO KNOWS IF THAT'S TRUE?

ENTER THE GUITARIST

KIYOTAKE-KUN, HOW ARE YOU?

.....

I'M OK OVER THE "DEATH GOD" INCIDENT. PEOPLE'S DREAMS CAN BE ODDLY INCONSISTENT. ALSO, EVERYONE IS A LITTLE JUVENILE INSIDE

USELESS INFOR-MATION

.....

HEY, SUI
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY, SONG? I DIDN'T HEAR IT, OK? WHOSE SONG? WHAT'S IT ABOUT? EMAIL ME.
TAKE CARE, SUI ♡

AM2:55 SONO ♡♡

sono.song@ ————

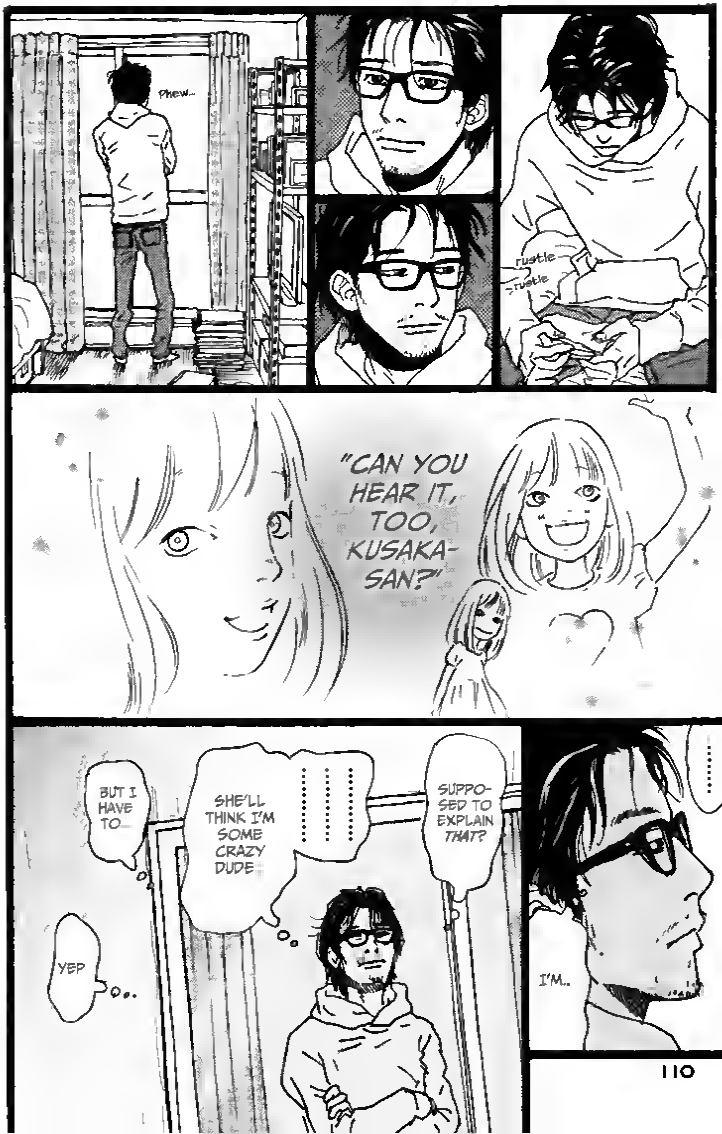
.....

IT'S TIRING TO WRITE YOUR NAME, SO I'M GOING TO FOLLOW SHUN'S LEAD

HM?

SUI

WOW


Phew...
rustle
rustle
"CAN YOU HEAR IT, TOO, KUSAKA-SAN?"
BUT I HAVE TO...
SHE'LL THINK I'M SOME CRAZY DUDE
SUPPO-SED TO EXPLAIN THAT?
YEP
I'M..

Crrrricket...
.....
UH..
.....
ARE YOU THERE?
SINGING CHILD?
CAN YOU
COME OUT FOR A SEC?
Crrrrickkkket...
LITTLE MISS..
SINGING CHILD?
NEVER HERE WHEN YOU NEED 'EM
TSK!

Good evening.
I'm just a no-name actor.
This woman beside me is a total stranger.
We will probably remain strangers.
Tonight, I came
to hear a song.
Her song.

She's singing beautifully today.
Will I be going home
wrapped up in her song again?
This is
not fake, but real.
SU-CHAN!

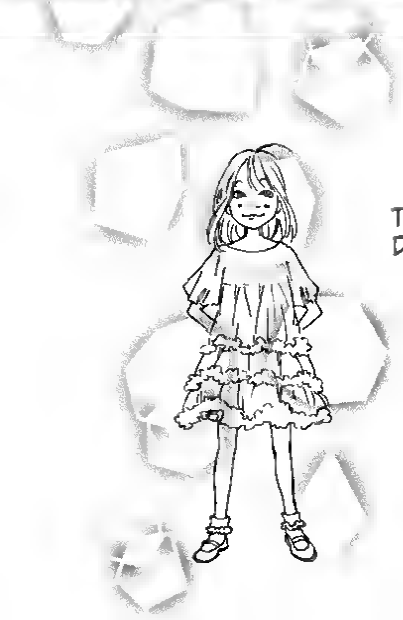
OH, I'M KIYOTAKE.
THE NAME'S ODA.
OH, THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY
HEY, YOU LOOK BETTER
MIXED RACE DIVORCEE
YES, THANKS TO YOU.
UH, ABOUT THE BILL FOR THE MEDS AND EVERY-
THINK NOTHING OF IT
BUT I-
HAHAHA, SU-CHAN, LOOSEN UP A BIT!
HEARD YOU WERE CLASS-MATES.
THAT'S RIGHT, SU-CHAN!
WHY DIDN'T YOU EMAIL ME?
YEAH, SURE.
SAY WHAT?
I WILL.
SAY WHAT?
AW, IF I KNEW YOU WERE COMING, I'D HAVE SANG IT.
?
"IT?"

MAN, IF ONLY I HAD AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE THE ARRANGE-MENTS
THE MELODY JUST CAME TO ME.
WHEN I WAS THINKING ABOUT SHUN,
SO,
YEAH... SINCE I WAS TWENTY
YOU KNEW EACH OTHER LONG?
YEAH.. SHE WAS A SEMPAI FOR THE SAME COMPANY..
OH, YEAH
OH, ARE YOU OK TALKING ABOUT IT?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR "FRIEND" WHO PASSED AWAY...
WAS IT FROM AN ILLNESS?
SHE AN ACTRESS? WERE YOU CLOSE?

"HER TIME WAS UP?"
SO YOU DON'T KNOW?
"MAYBE"
ACCI-DENT,
OR
SUI-CIDE...
...MAYBE?
I SEE..
WASN'T SHE YOUNG? POOR THING..
.....
IF IT'S...
NOT A DEATH GOD.
THEN WHAT IS IT?
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE IT?
SO,

WHY CAN I HEAR IT?
WHAT KIND OF SONG DO YOU HEAR?
A CHILD...

DID SONO KUSAKA LOOK..
LIKE THIS?
IS THIS HER FACE?
EVEN WITHOUT MAKE UP,
HER FACE LOOKS LIKE IT'S HAD A LOT OF WORK DONE ON IT.
HER EYES
NOSE
LIPS.
IDIOTS...
IDIOT!

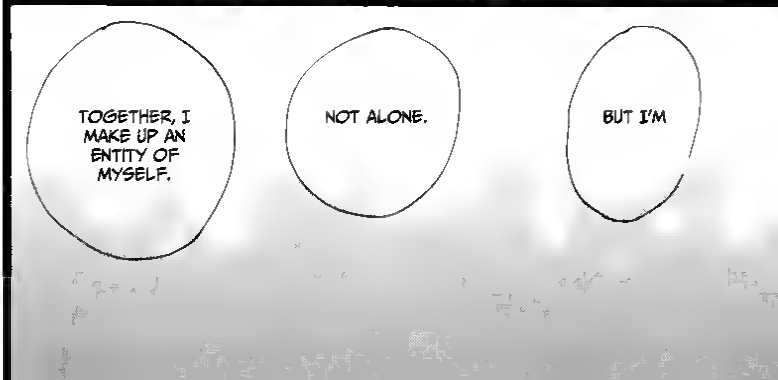


"A LIFE THAT WAS DENIED."*

*T/N: This line was mistakenly translated in Chapter 2 as "an unborn life." However, that is incorrect, and we feel the need to clarify, so that readers will have a more accurate understanding of the translations. We apologize for the confusion. m(_ _)m

LET ME TELL YOU,
SONO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ME.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE'LL LOSE HER LIFE EVEN BEFORE SHE DOES.
AND AS LONG AS SHE REMAINS UNAWARE, I'LL BE FREE OF GUILT.

AND IT'S OKAY.
I AM WHO I AM.
WHEN I AWOKE, I WAS MYSELF.
SINGING MADE ME HAPPY.

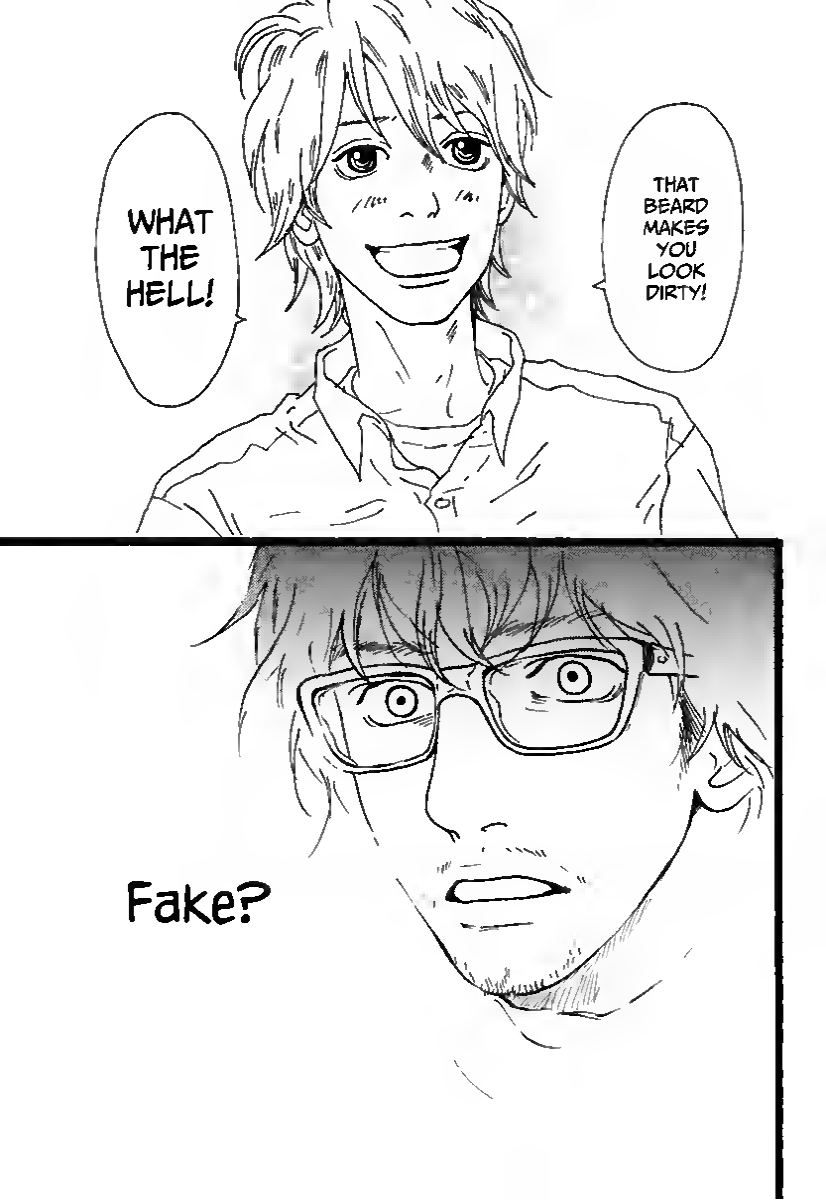

BUT I'M
NOT ALONE.
TOGETHER, I MAKE UP AN ENTITY OF MYSELF.

OOH IF YOU FIND THE ANSWER, LET ME KNOW!
CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THIS "ENTITY" OF YOURS?
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING...
SO...
IS IT OKAY IF I TELL SONO ABOUT YOU?
I WONDER WHY?
Don't tell me you're the wandering type?
GOOD GRIEF!

DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
OH, ONE MORE THING.
I'LL SAY THIS FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND.
THAT WOMAN DIDN'T DIE BECAUSE SHE
HEARD MY VOICE, OK?
.....
AND ANOTHER THING.
THAT WOMAN DIDN'T KILL HERSELF, OK?
.....
HUH?

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DO IT.
MI-...
MAYBE THINKING I WANTED TO DIE
MI-RU...
FOR EVEN A MOMENT,
MADE FATE PUT IT INTO EFFECT.
I'M A BIG FAILURE.
SORRY, SU-CHAN.
MUST'VE SCARED YOU!
BUT I WAS SCARED TOO!

MIRUKO-
...
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT.
S-
.....
SU!
THERE'S
MORE
THAN ONE
OF ME.
LIKE I
SAID.
Screw
you...


WHAT THE HELL!
THAT BEARD MAKES YOU LOOK DIRTY!
Fake?

Real?